

Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 EB-11

COME-00 CG-00 TRSE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 OMB-01 SPC-03 EUR-25 DLOS-06 DODE-00 INT-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 15842

PASS NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE/SCHONING

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: EFIS, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE PROPOSALS ON SALMON AND HALIBUT ISSUES

REF: TOKYO 15477

1. REGFISHATT (RFA) MET WITH T. OHBA, CHIEF, DIV MARINE FISHERIES, JAPAN FISHERY AGENCY, DEC. 6 ON SALMON AND HALIBUT ISSUES. OHBA PRESENTED RFA PAPERS JAPAN'S RESPONSE TO U.S. PROPOSALS RE SALMON AND HALIBUT. INSTRUCTIONS SENT THEIR EMBASSY NIGHT DEC. 4 TO PRESENT PROPOSALS TO DEPARTMENT. JFA ATTEMPTED CONTACT RFA DEC. 5 BUT RFA UNAVAILABLE THAT DAY.

2. JAPAN'S RESPONSE POUCHED TODAY. RFA COMMENTS KEYED TO NUMBERED PARAGRAPHS.

3. IN HALIBUT PAPER, PARA 1(1) TO 1(4) REPRESENT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY JAPAN AT INPFC MEETING WHICH USDEL ALREADY AWARE. PARA 1(5) TO 1(7) ARE MEASURES IMPLEMENTED BY JAPAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS. PARA 2(1) AND 2(2) REPRESENT ONLY NEW ADDITIONAL MEASURES DEVELOPED SUBSEQUENT TO INPFC MEETING WHICH JAPAN PLANS IMPLEMENT FROM 1974.

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4. PARA 2(1) ESTABLISHES 3-MONTH WINTER CLOSURE IN AREA A SOUTH OF LATITUDE 55 NORTH IN 1974. AT INPFC MEETING, U.S. PROPOSED 3-MONTH CLOSURE (JANUARY-MARCH) IN AREA A SOUTH OF LATITUDE 56 NORTH. JAPAN PROPOSED 2-MONTH CLOSURE (FEBRUARY-MARCH) SOUTH OF LATITUDE 55 NORTH. IN OHBA'S VIEW, JAPAN'S NEWEST PROPOSAL REPRESENTS COMPROMISE IN TERMS OF SEASON BY ONE MONTH ON JAPAN'S PART AND IN AREA BY ONE DEGREE ON PART U.S. AREA OF CLOSURE HELD BY JAPAN AT LATITUDE 55 NORTH TO PRESERVE THEIR WINTER TRAWL FISHERY NORTH OF THAT LATITUDE.

5. PARA 2(2) PROHIBITS WINTER TRAWL OPERATION IN AREA E SOUTH OF LATITUDE 56 NORTH FOR 2 MONTHS, FROM FEBRUARY 1-MARCH 31, IN 1974 AND FOR 3 MONTHS, FROM JANUARY 1-MARCH 31, IN 1975. FINAL PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY U.S. AT INPFC MEETING CALLED FOR CLOSURE AREA E SOUTH OF 56 NORTH FOR 4 MONTHS, FROM DECEMBER THROUGH MARCH SINCE INCIDENTAL CATCH HALIBUT LARGE IN AREA DURING WINTER MONTHS. OHBA CLAIMS AREA IMPORTANT TO JAPANESE WINTER OPERATION FOR YELLOWFIN SOLE. SINCE ONE FLEET (KASHIMA MARU) ALREADY ON FISHING GROUND, JAPAN PROPOSING CLOSURE OF TWO MONTHS ONLY (FEBRUARY-MARCH) IN 1974 TO PERMIT THAT FLEET TO CONTINUE OPERATION IN AREA INTO JANUARY. KASHIMA MARU DEPARTED JAPAN IN OCTOBER. HOWEVER, FROM 1975 ON, JAPAN PROPOSES TO CLOSE AREA SOUTH OF 56 NORTH TO TRAWLING FOR 3 MONTHS, RATHER THAN 4 MONTHS PROPOSED BY U.S.

6. OHBA STRESSED GOJ CONTINUES TO STRONGLY SUPPORT INPFC AND STATED CURRENT DISCUSSION ON PROBLEM CONSIDERED EXTENSION OF INPFC TALKS WHICH CAN BE HANDLED IN ONE OF TWO WAYS, BY CONVENING INTERIM MEETING OR BY CORRESPONDENCE. WHEN ASKED HIS PREFERENCE, HE PREDICTABLY CHOSE CORRESPONDENCE. IN ANY EVENT, HE STATED THEY SHOULD BE CONDUCTED UNDER INPFC UMBRELLA.

7. WITH RESPECT TO SALMON, JAPAN, ON VOLUNTARY BASIS, PLANS CLOSE WATERS ENCLOSED BETWEEN MERIDIANS 178 EAST AND 175 WEST AND BETWEEN LATITUDES 53 NORTH AND 49 NORTH FROM MAY 15 (BEGINNING OF FISHING SEASON) TO JUNE 15, 1974, TO PROTECT 1974 RUN ADULT BRISTOL BAY RED SALMON.

8. JAPAN ALSO PROPOSES PROHIBIT SALMON FISHING BY SALMON MOTHER-
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SHIP FLEETS IN AREA ENCLOSED BY MERIDIANS 175 EAST AND 175 WEST AND BY LATITUDES 52 NORTH AND 50 NORTH FROM JULY 10 TO AUGUST 10, 1974 TO PROTECT IMMATURE BRISTOL BAY RED SALMON. AUGUST 10 MARKS CLOSURE OF FISHERY.

9. OHBA CLAIMED THAT AGREEMENT ON JAPANESE PROPOSALS REACHED ONLY AFTER INTENSIVE DISCUSSION WITH CONCERNED ELEMENTS IN GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY. DELAY IN MEETING INITIAL DEADLINE FOR

SUBMISSION JAPAN'S RESPONSE WAS DUE TO GREAT DIFFICULTY IN
RECONCILING DIVERGENT VIEWS.

10. OHBA STRESSED NECESSITY OF KEEPING SALMON ARRANGEMENTS IN
STRICTEST CONFIDENCE BY ALL THREE COUNTRIES, U.S., CANADA,
AND JAPAN, OTHERWISE WILL CREATE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR JAPAN.
RFA INTERPRETED PROBLEMS TO MEAN JAPAN'S FISHERIES RELATIONS
WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

12. FINALLY, OHBA STATED JAPAN NATURALLY CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN
ITS LEGAL POSITION AS BEFORE.
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